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WILL BREXIT BRING THE TROUBLES BACK TO NORTHERN IRELAND?

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The “especially volatile brew” stirred by Brexit in Northern Ireland is concocted of centuries old juices of a particularly toxic vintage. Although the Orangemen say the July 12th parades celebrating the defeat of the Irish by the Protestant king William of Orange in 1690 “are an innocent expression of their culture” it was that Irish Protestant, Edmund Burke, who first warned of Protestant parades and celebrations that reopen wounds of conquest and humiliation. Burke wrote in the 1790s regarding celebrations of Oliver Cromwell and King William: "One would not think that decorum, to say nothing of policy, would permit them (Protestants) to call up, by magic charms, the grounds, reasons and principles of those terrible confiscatory and exterminatory periods when they established their rule."

He saw these traditional celebrations as little more than revisiting the scene of a crime and had little sympathy for triumphalist versions of Britishness which sought to trample on the rights of other cultures, i.e., Irish Catholics.

Eduardo Galeano, Uruguayan writer reminds us that, “No history is mute. No matter how much they own it, break it, and lie about it, human history refuses to shut its mouth. Despite deafness and ignorance, the time that was continues to tick inside the time that is.”

Brexit may bring Ulster back to Ireland.